

Community ORV Watch  
[www.orvwatch.com](http://www.orvwatch.com)

March 10, 2010

OHMVR Division  
Sacramento California

Re: Letter in support of the grant application by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Morongo Basin Station

Dear Sir/Madam:

Community ORV Watch of the Morongo Basin is a grassroots organization of residents and businesses dedicated to protecting private and public lands from off-road vehicle (ORV) abuse in the Morongo Basin. We have worked with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to protect private property and the quality of life in our communities. We have grown from a small group of neighbors to over 400 members due, in part, to the extent of the ORV problem in the Southern California desert region and our grass roots organizing efforts.

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the application by the Sheriff's Department for an OHMVR grant. Due to the efforts of Captain Donny Miller, Sgt. James Porter and deputies with the Sheriff's ORV Law Enforcement Team, the Morongo Basin has experienced increased enforcement of laws pertaining to ORV activities.

We meet regularly with the Sheriff's Department and San Bernardino County Code Enforcement (CE) who work overtime to protect our community from unmanaged and illegal ORV activities. Sheriff's department officers work cooperatively with their counterparts in CE and with federal rangers through multi-agency meetings. We have found the Sheriff's department staff to be professional and accessible. They respond to our inquiries promptly and are available for public meetings.

On major holiday weekends, the Sheriff's department has been over-whelmed in areas where ORVs congregate to engage in illegal activities. Not all complaints from residents can be addressed due to limited funding and the prioritization of other calls for service. With additional support, the Sheriff's department can expand its capacity to respond to the particular challenges associated with ORV trespass and damage to businesses and private property.

We have found that public education must go hand-in-hand with enforcement. The Sheriff's department's plans to educate the public through outreach to the schools and local ORV vendors, distribution of ORV brochures and the deployment of road side electronic message boards directing riders to designated ORV areas will make a significant contribution to public safety and the protection of private property.

The Sheriff's department needs the tools to apprehend ORV riders who will take off cross-country at the sight of a police cruiser. It is important that Sheriff's deputies can have sufficient back-up when approaching groups of ORV riders.

We believe that the Sheriff's department will maximize grants funds to improve our quality of life, increase the public safety and reduce conflicts between ORV riders and residents. Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Brahm Elmendorp  
Victoria Fuller  
Mark Heuston  
Phil Klasky  
Mary Riggs  
Eve Vykydal  
Terry Weiner

cc San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department